

# READINGS IN SOCIAL AND ISLAMIC ISSUES

JAMIL FAROOQUI



IIUM Press  
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*Edited by*  
**Jamil Farooqui**



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# **FOSTERING INTER-GROUP INTERACTION: AN ISLAMIC APPROACH**

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**Abdul Mumin Abdulai\***

## **INTRODUCTION**

Social interaction is a broad social phenomenon. As such, this paper explores one segment of the concept i.e. inter-group interaction. Specifically, both the endogenous and exogenous factors that hinder intergroup interaction are examined. The paper also touches on what individuals, in concerted efforts with established institutions, can do to overcome any interaction-stifling obstacle and how to promote harmonious inter-group interaction. To set the ball rolling, we should acquaint ourselves with what social interaction is and what it is not in the sociological literature.

## **DEFINITION OF SOCIAL INTERACTION**

William P. Scott in his *Dictionary of Sociology* defined social interaction as “behaviour directed toward or influenced by another person.”<sup>1</sup> In the *Harper Collins Dictionary of Sociology*, Vary and Jary conceived of social interaction as “the processes and manners in which social actors relate to each other, especially in face-to-face encounters.

Thibaut and Kelly defined social interaction as when individuals “[exhibit] behaviour in each other’s presence, they create products for each other or they communicate with each other.”<sup>2</sup> For instance, “if person A meets person B on the street, stops and chats about the

\* Dr. Abdul Mumin Abdulai is Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Kuliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia.